

AT ARMY CHAPEL'S FIRST SERVICE



"No other Government in the world has made such liberal provision for divine service," for members of its armed forces, declared Bishop William T. McCarty, C. S. R., Military Delegate, preaching at the first Mass celebrated in the new army chapel at Hahnemann General Hospital, Staten Island, N. Y. Bishop McCarty is pictured (left second row) in the solemn procession to the new chapel. (N.C.W.C.)

Archbishop Spellman Meets Author Of Letter He Long Prized At Mass In Cairo

NEW YORK—Some time before the Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, Archbishop of New York and Military Vicar of the U. S. Armed Forces, embarked on his trip overseas, he was given by a bereaved but proud mother a copy of a letter she had received from one son, serving in the Army Air Corps, consoling her on the death of another son who died fighting with the Marines at Midway and who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Deeply impressed by the noble and sympathetic sentiments expressed in the letter, the Archbishop has carried it with him since he received it. When he celebrated Mass on Memorial Day in St. Joseph's Church in Cairo, he read the letter as part of his Memorial Day sermon to the American and United Nations servicemen, who crowded the Church. The letter stated:

"My dear Mother: There is little or nothing I can do or say to soothe you in your grief at this trying time. As has been so often truly said, 'We are born but to die,' and someday it must come to all of us. After all, when we view the vastness of eternity, it is of little importance whether our time on earth is ten, twenty, fifty or even a hundred years. The important thing is that our lives, of what ever length, be those of honor, integrity and devotion to duty. Of those virtues, our Richard was a supreme example. With all his gentleness and fine sensibilities, Mother, he was a man of courage, brilliance and a true leader of men. Truly, he was one of America's finest.

"If his life was short, it was filled with accomplishment and success. He leaves us a great legacy in his memory. He had the good will and admiration, friendship and respect of his fellows.

"The greatest gift which man can receive is that of a happy death, and that, even in the midst of shot and shell, was given to Dick a hundred fold. He had received the Sacraments often in the past weeks and his spirit was at peace with God. In his last moments, Mother, he knew and was comforted by the knowledge that he had done his duty, fulfilled his mission and struck vital blows in the defense of his country, and for the continuance of our great democratic way of life. No man could do more. You must be very proud to have given life to a son like him.

As he read the letter, Archbishop Spellman revealed to his military congregation that "by a remarkable coincidence the son who wrote this letter, whom I have never met, is present at this Mass this morning." The author of the letter, First Lieut. W. Fleming, of the Air Corps, and Archbishop Spellman, met at the conclusion of the Memorial Day ceremony.

German Book Theories Hit On Vatican Radio

NEW YORK—(NC)—The Vatican Radio, in a broadcast to Germany reported by U. S. Government monitors, challenged the "blood and soil" theories of a new German book entitled "The New Order of Thinking."

The Vatican broadcast quoted the book as saying, "The only true wealth of our people is its good blood," and "Our blood decides what we are and what becomes of us. This is the center around which all our thinking, all activities of our spirit and soul must evolve."

Deploing this evidence that man today "is not recognized as a person," the Vatican speaker told the German people that there are values "higher than the Fatherland, more than blood and soil, race and nation."

"Socialist systems of all shades are brought down to one common denominator and are made subservient to aims which may not be bad in themselves or even good, but which are not the highest ultimate aims," the broadcast said.

Ministry of Information For Christianity Urged

OTTAWA — According to a Canadian Press dispatch, Lord Hankey is advocating the establishment in Great Britain of a "Ministry of Information for Christianity."

"I should like to see an organization composed of representatives of the churches," Lord Hankey has said, "thus giving a good example of cooperation in many domains, and striving, through exciting means and new ones to be sought, for the propagation of religious thought in our national life."

Broadcast In Russian Mondays from Vatican

VATICAN CITY — A regular Monday broadcast in the Russian language has been inaugurated by the Vatican Radio. The programs are strictly religious in character.

Declared Indictment of Hitlerism

ST. LOUIS—The address of His Holiness Pope Pius XII to the Italian laboring classes was an indictment against Hitler-controlled Fascism," the Very Rev. Patrick James Halloran, S.J., president of St. Louis University, asserted in a radio address here over Station WYFL.

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